Pollution free Scheme for Red Fort

†236. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme or propose to formulate any scheme to mark Red Fort, situated in the capital city Delhi, pollution free;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) To protect the historical monuments including Red Fort in Delhi from air pollution, National Ambient Air Quality Standards have been notified including standards for Sensitive Areas, which include national monuments. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) with the assistance of State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees under the National Air Quality Monitoring Programme is monitoring ambient air quality at 332 locations in 121 cities/towns, which include the cities/ towns where historical monuments are located.

In Delhi, the CPCB is monitoring ambient air quality on continuous basis at 2 locations, namely ITO, Sirifort and Delhi College of Engineering in addition, ambient air quality is manually monitored at 5 stations, namely Shahzada Bagh, Shahdara, Pitampura, Nizamudeen and Janakpuri by CPCB. The National Environment Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) is also conducting ambient air monitoring in Delhi at other 3 locations, namely Sarojini Nagar, Town Hall and Maya Puri.

Ambient air quality data reveals that except Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM) and Respirable Suspended Particulate matter (RSPM), the other pollutants like sulphur dioxide, oxides of nitrogen are well within prescribe ambient air quality standards in Delhi.

Some of the Steps taken to protect the Historical monuments in Delhi from impact of pollution include.

* Introduction of Bharat stage-III norms for new vehicles to reduce vehicular pollution;
* Strengthening 'Pollution Under Control (PUC)' Certificate system for in-use vehicles.
* Introduction of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), a cleaner fuel for public transport to replace diesel and petrol driven public transport vehicles;
* Diversion of heavy vehicular traffic in and around the historical monuments to the extent possible;
* Afforestation in the vicinity of the historical monuments;
* Monitoring, of meterological parameters, such as, wind speed, wind direction, temperature, relative humidity, rain fall etc. to study the effects of these parameters on the monuments.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.